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DE RUEHSO #0836 2881243
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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7576
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 8686
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 8390
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC 2929

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000836

SIPDIS

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STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

DEPT PASS USTR

USDOC 4322/MAC/OLAC/JAFEE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR OPRC OIIP ETRD BR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: WESTERN HEMISPHERE: VENEZUELA, CHAVEZ'S REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE, NATIONALIZATION PROGRAM, PRESS FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS; SAO PAULO.

The Militarization of Venezuela

Center-right O Estado de S.Paulo editorialized (10/15): "[Venezuelan] opposition parties have started organizing a parliamentary resistance against Chavez' machinations such as indefinite reelection, destruction of the federative regime...and the end of private property.... Chavez accuses these parties and their leaders of being traitors of the nation, servants of the oligarchy and CIA agents.... Some time ago...[Chavez] adopted nazi-fascist methods...he took the pledge of allegiance from the party's committee that will organize a referendum...on the new constitution...he heard the pledge of 14 thousand "soldiers"...who will be responsible for "convincing" Venezuelans that the socialism of the 21st century will be Paradise on Earth. Chavez is also organizing "troops of support" and "troops of rear-guards"... Chavez is putting together as well the National Bolivarian Militia with a structure that is parallel to the Armed Forces with the obvious goal of defending the interests of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela and its supreme leader, not those of the State. Any similarity to the nazi SS will not be a mere coincidence.... This is the regime President Lula wants as a partner of Mercosul."

White